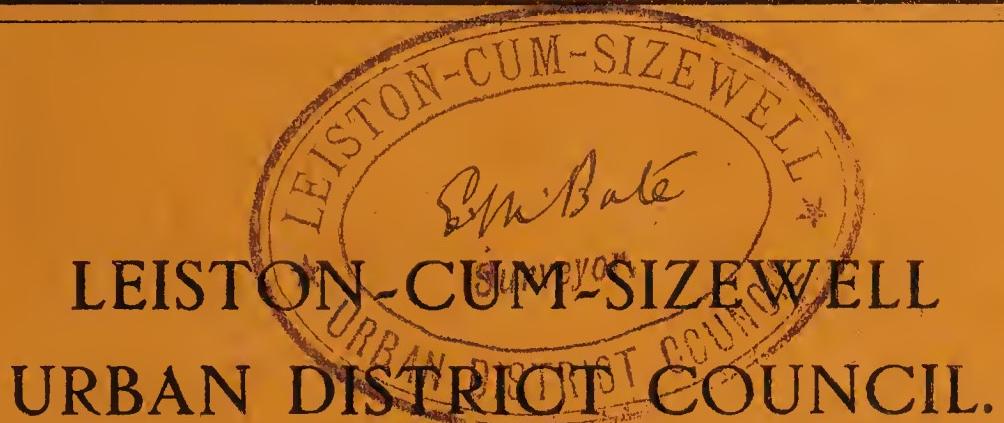


Provision of Public Convenience

Enclosure (2)

I. E. 1306/9846/1 See page 9.



1930.

3

Annual Reports

OF

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector.

LEISTON-CUM-SIZEWELL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1930.



Annual Reports

OF

Medical Officer of Health

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Leiston-cum-Sizewell Urban District Council

§ § § § § §

Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1929.

*To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District
of Leiston-cum-Sizewell.*

Gentlemen,—

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitation of the District for the year ending December 31st, 1929.

I am very glad to report that in the past year not only has progress been made towards the adoption of recommendations which I have made, but that a certain amount of work has been carried out towards the betterment of Public Health and Sanitary Conditions in Leiston.

During the past year new laws have come into force which naturally affect Local Government, Poor Law and Rating. The County Authorities have been charged with promulgation of a scheme whereby the control of Public Health and Sanitation of all Districts throughout the County will eventually pass into their hands. Local Councils will no longer employ their own Medical Officers and Leiston, as one of the areas where a temporary appointment of medical officer obtains, is likely to be one of the first where the change will be made. Although at the time of writing (Jan. 1930) the County Authorities have not yet issued their scheme to take over the various locally administered areas it is significant that last October the Ministry of Health would not sanction an extension of the temporary appointment of the present Medical Officer (myself) beyond 6 months—i.e., to beyond March 31st, 1930. The future of the office is therefore obscure and, to say the least, discouraging to the holder, who may thus be unable to see his aspirations for better Public Health in Leiston carried to fruition.

Whether centralised control of the areas, administered by a staff from Headquarters, will be as beneficial to the districts as the retention by each of its own Medical Officer, who is therefore always on the spot, remains to be seen. But the Leiston-cum-Sizewell Councillors view the coming change unfavourably.

The Sanitary Inspector to the Council resigned his appointment on May 31st last and his place has been filled by Mr. L. A. Gornall, who is a considerably younger man, and not only knows his work, but gets it done. He has certainly been handicapped in his first six months by having to complete much work left over by his predecessor and he will therefore have greater opportunities before him in the coming year ; like myself, he will find his enthusiasm curbed by the poverty of the district which prevents so many obviously desirable improvements being carried out.

Again I would like to mark my appreciation of the way in which the Chairman and Councillors have supported me and of the sympathy they have shewn towards carrying out my suggestions in the past year ; and again I must apologise, owing to the unavoidably late publication of this report, that some of its contents will appear secondhand.

1. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres) 4994.

Population : 1921 census : 4,663 : Estimated 1929 : 4,454.

No. of Inhabited Houses 1921 : Estimated 1150.

No. of Families or Separate Occupiers 1921 : Not available.

Rateable Valuable : £18,028 (Excluding De Rated Proportion).

Sum represented by a penny rate : £69 14s. 4d.

Rates : 12s. in the £.

(N.B.—Rating Statistics are not directly comparable with those of 1928 owing to the new rating scheme having come into force).

2. Social Conditions.

LEISTON. Although outwardly there has been little obvious alteration in the fortunes of the town, the Works of Messrs. Richard Garrett & Sons, upon which its fortunes so largely depend, have been decidedly busier, more men have been employed in certain sections and much overtime been worked. What little change there has been may be said to have been progressive.

KNODISHALL. Conditions in that portion of Knodishall which comes within the jurisdiction of the Leiston Council are unaltered apart from very great road improvements effected by the County Council. Many houses are damp or unfit for occupation but lack of alternative accommodation prevents orders for demolition save in the worst cases.

SIZEWELL. Owing to the uncertainty of the outcome of the negotiations regarding the beach and foreshore further reference to Sizewell will be left until my report next year.

3. Vital Statistics.

		M.	F.	Total
Births,	Legitimate	38*	35*	73
	Illegitimate	2	2	4

Birth Rate 17.3 per 1000.

do. (England and Wales) 17.0 per 1000.

Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth :—None.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age :—

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0

Death rate of infants under 1 year per 1000 registered : 28.1.

Death rate : 10.3 per 1000.

do. (England and Wales): 13.4 per 1000.

Deaths :	Measles (all ages)	...	0
	Whooping Cough (all ages)		1
	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		0

* In each of these figures is included 3 still-births.

The Leiston district has had a much less healthy year than last. The year was one of continued periods of drought, December being the only really wet month, but this did not bring the rainfall up to the average. Exceptional frost in January and February appeared to lower the resistance of individuals to disease and convalescence was unduly prolonged. The very fine summer and early autumn, on the other hand, appeared to benefit the health of the population on the whole.

February and March saw a mild epidemic of influenza, fortunately with low mortality, but few houses escaped the infection. This was followed by whooping cough among the children and there were several cases. In August and October there were very slight outbreaks of diarrhoea and vomiting, mainly among adults. A mild epidemic of mumps, starting in May, developed serious proportions among the Junior Schools in the autumn and there were also, in the autumn, a large number of cases of tonsilitis in which quinzy as a complication was a marked feature, and at the same time about half-a-dozen cases of scarlet fever occurred.

Recently I have been impressed by the frequency with which as a practitioner I have been called to dirty houses in comparison with clean ones. General health seems less

good, such diseases as rheumatism and tonsilitis more common, not to mention septic and other skin affections; and poverty need be no excuse for uncleanliness although the two so often run hand-in-hand.

4. General Provision of Health Services for the District.

1. Hospitals :

- A.* (1) Fever.—The Isolation Hospital and Site, which as noted in my previous report, had been closed down, was bought back into the Sizewell Estate by the Trustees, for the sum of £200. All infectious cases needing removal are sent to the Foxhall Road Isolation Hospital, Ipswich, but only one case was sent there last year.
- (2) Small Pox.—None local. The County Council is responsible for such cases.

B. Tuberculosis, Maternity, Children, other.—None local. Most Tuberculosis cases are treated at the Ipswich Hospital, consumptive cases usually being sent to Normanton Sanatorium by the County Council. Maternity cases are sent, when necessary, to Ipswich Hospital or Aldeburgh Cottage Hospital, children to Ipswich.

2. There is no Institutional Provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate or homeless children in the area, but a few Dr. Barnardo's and Church orphans are boarded out in the town and are well cared for.

3. Ambulances :

- (a) For infectious cases : None.
- (b) For non-infectious cases : None.

The Ipswich Hospital or Foxhall Road Isolation Hospital Authorities have excellent ambulance facilities and will send to Leiston whenever requested and without untoward delay. The St. John's Ambulance Brigade at Ipswich also runs ambulance services.

4. Clinics and Treatment Centres :

There are no Tuberculosis or Venereal Diseases Centres and no Nurseries or School Clinics. But a County Council Officer periodically visits all tubercular cases resident in the district; venereal cases are sent to the Venereal Clinic at Ipswich; a Schools' Medical Officer inspects the Elementary and Secondary Schools and a County Medical Officer holds a weekly Maternity and Infant Welfare Clinic in the British Legion Hut.

5. Public Health Officers to the Local Authority :
- (1) A part-time Medical Officer of Health, whose salary is largely contributed by the Ministry of Health.
 - (2) A part-time Sanitary Inspector, who also holds the appointment of Surveyor to the Council.

Mr. L. A. Gornall succeeded Mr. Thorrold as Sanitary Inspector on June 1st, and as already noted, has had to spend a good amount of his time dealing with arrears of work. He has been granted the services of an assistant by the Council which materially assists in the keeping of records and work generally, and the assistant will gain working knowledge of a Sanitary Inspector's routine. Work is on the whole being now promptly dealt with and what is of considerable importance is that all notices served are being followed up to see that instructions given are put into effect. This part of the Sanitary Inspector's work had been much neglected in the past and a slack state of affairs allowed to exist.

6. Professional Nursing in the Home.

- (a) General : Two fully trained District Nurses employed by the Leiston and District Nursing Association.
- (b) For infectious Diseases : None.

7. Midwives :

The above two District Nurses undertake Midwifery cases, whilst there are still a few uncertified women who do midwifery work under a qualified medical practitioner, but this practice is diminishing.

8. Registration of Maternity Homes : There are none in the district.

9. Chemical Work : The County Council at Ipswich provides full facilities.

10. Legislation in Force :

- (1) Part 3 Public Health Acts Amendments Acts, adopted 1890.
- (2) The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.
- (3) Public Health Acts, Amended Act, 1907, Part 3, Sect. 39-42, inclusive. Part 10, sec. 92.

5. Sanitary Conditions of the Area.

Water:

The recommendations issued to the property owners at Sizewell, where contaminated water from two wells was discovered, as mentioned in my last report, were followed up by the Council and conditions have been much improved. The cess-pools in the vicinity were all examined and found to be faulty in many respects; a considerable amount of work was done in putting these right and now I think all that can be done, having due regard to the very unfavourable local circumstances, has been done towards providing a healthier water supply.

The question of a water-softener for Leiston has been referred by the Public Health Committee to the Waterworks Committee of the Council for consideration.

No plans of the watermains of the town are in existence but the Surveyor hopes to be able to make some; the necessary information will be difficult to obtain in full and it will take a considerable time to complete.

Rivers and Streams:

I have no fresh comments here.

Drainage and Sewerage:

I like the town's water system, no plan or accurate knowledge of the complete sewerage system exists. Here again the Sanitary Inspector hopes eventually to remedy deficiency.

The dump of old tins and rubbish at the Sewerage Plant is gradually being sorted with a view to the tins being sold and the rest buried in a disused sand pit.

An attempt was made by the Aldeburgh Sanitary Inspector in conjunction with Mr. Gornall to kill off the rats on the sewage ground by means of cyanide gas but without particularly successful results.

Closet Accommodation:

In the matter of conversions from pail to water-borne sewage system I think further pressure should be exerted by the Council. The figures for the past year are given herewith.

1. Number of water closets (connected with sewerage) at end of year	...	...	...	721
2. Number of pail closets (served by night soil cartage system) at end of year	...	...	...	371
3. Number of conversions of (2) to (1) during year	...			11

Scavenging :

A second-hand covered refuse cart was purchased from Ipswich Corporation during the year and has proved an inestimable boon to the town, and the work of the refuse collectors no longer calls for complaint. The Sanitary Inspector has insisted on many new dustbins being supplied by householders.

Roads :

A certain amount has been done towards the amelioration of the Leiston roads of which I have complained. Apart from the main thoroughfares having been taken over by the County Council, Roberts Road has been put into repair—although it will prove very temporary owing to lack of foresight—by the owners, and Valley Road, leading to the sewerage plant, by the Council.

Carr Avenue, above all, remains a disgrace not only to the owners but to the Council to permit it. From a health point of view the clouds of dust in summer, preventing doors and windows being kept open to let in fresh air and sunlight is almost worse than the damp from the sea of pools and mud in winter. More than one occupier has been forced to leave. There is no excuse to dally over the matter any longer: most of the owners are ready and willing to do their share towards having the road put in repair so that it may be taken over by the Council; the rest must be compelled, aided by loans if necessary.

Public Convenience:

The erection of a public convenience at a central spot in the town is essential, especially in regard to the increased numbers of persons who are brought into the town daily by motor-bus services. The question of site the Council already has in hand and I hope the convenience may be erected before the end of the year.

6. Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations.

1.	Slaughter Houses :					
	Number registered	...	...	...	...	1
	Number licensed	...	...	...	...	5
2.	Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops :					
	Number of Cowsheds registered	...	...	...	...	16
	Number of Milkshops registered	...	...	...	...	2
3.	Factories and Workshops :					
	Number of Factories registered	...	...	...	...	6
	Number of Workshops registered	...	...	...	...	20

Schools :

The water supply is from the local Authority and the closet accommodation is adequate.

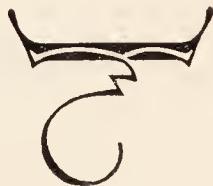
Suspected cases of infectious disease are notified by the school authorities to the Medical Officer of Health.

Other Sanitary Conditions requiring notice :

Mention has been made under the respective headings of sanitary matters to which I desire to call attention.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area :

The formal report of the Sanitary Inspection is given below; it only deals with the last half of the year, Mr. Gornall's predecessor having left no figures of inspections, etc., made during the first five months. Mr. Gornall has got through a large amount of work, but has not been able to deal fully with all branches during his brief period in office to date.



Leiston-cum-Sizewell Urban District Council.

§ § § §

Report of the Sanitary Inspector for period between 1st June, 1929 and 31st December, 1929.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Gentlemen,—

I have pleasure in submitting to you my report upon the work carried out in the Sanitary Department, from the date I took up my duties (1st June, 1929) to the end of the year 1929.

Nuisances.

During the period 4 informal notices and 1 statutory notice were served to abate nuisances, which were complied with.

Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act.

I have inspected 199 houses under this Act and found the defects to consist chiefly of insufficient or defective receptacles for house refuse, damp walls, smoky chimneys, defective drainage.

127 Preliminary notices have been served on owners relating to 192 houses, and verbal notices have been given to 2 owners relative to 2 houses.

The following is a classified list of inspections showing defects.

1. Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	199
2. Number of Houses with defects	...	...	...	...	...	194
3. Total number of such defects	...	...	...	...	...	231
4. Number of Houses with insufficient or defective receptacles for house refuse	...	...	...	...	...	170
5. Number of houses with damp floors and walls	...	...	...	...	...	4
6. Number of houses with defective roofs	...	...	...	...	...	4
7. Number of houses with defective drains	...	...	...	...	...	16

A considerable number of the above defects have been remedied and the remainder will be dealt with by statutory notices.

Houses Unfit for Human Habitation.

Three houses were reported as being unfit for human habitation and closing orders were issued by the Council. In one case the house has ceased to be occupied and the remaining two are being dealt with under the Housing Act 1925.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 6 Slaughter Houses registered in the District which I have visited periodically and have found them generally very clean.

No carcase or parts of a carcase has been condemned for Tuberculosis and generally the quality of the meat was good.

I gave three verbal notices regarding the accumulation of manure which were attended to immediately.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

There are 5 cowkeepers and purveyors of milk and one milk shop in the district, also 2 purveyors of milk from an adjoining district.

The number of cowsheds in the district is 16 and accommodate 227 cows and these have been visited on 25 occasions.

Verbal notices were given regarding dirty floors, lime-washing, etc., and these have been attended to.

Generally the condition of the cowsheds in the district is good. Samples have been taken from all purveyors and tested for sedimentation; record of these is kept in the Sanitary Department.

Factory and Workshops Act.

There have been no inspections made under this Act, due to pressure of other work, but this matter will receive my attention at an early date.

Bakehouses.

There are 3 bakehouses on the register which have been inspected on two occasions and instructions given regarding lime-washing, etc.

House Refuse Collection.

The collection of house refuse is carried out weekly and no complaints have been received regarding irregularity.

The incinerator has been improved by means of increased draught and no difficulty is now experienced in burning the refuse.

Saleable material is sorted out and will be disposed of periodically.

Pail Closets.

There are about 376 pail closets in the district, and these are emptied weekly, the work being carried out by the Council's workmen between 4.45 a.m. and 6.30 a.m. each morning.

The excremental matter is taken by a local farmer who supplies the horse free of cost to the Council in exchange thereof.

During the period of my report 3 pail closets have been converted to water carriage system.

Infectious Disease.

I have disinfected 3 houses after infectious cases, viz:— scarlet fever. The disinfecting agent used is “Lawsoform” Fumigating lamp.

In all cases when notified, the houses are visited, enquiries made, disinfectant supplied and instructions given to prevent the spread of the disease.

New Buildings.

The following new buildings have been completed or are in the course of erection.

3 Bungalows.

1 Extension of School.

1 New Police Station.

3 Additions to Shops.

1 New Shop.

There are no Building Bye-laws in force in the District, but the Council have under consideration the adoption of same.

Drainage of New Buildings.

The Council have in operation Bye-laws under this head and all drains to new buildings are tested (where possible) with water or smoke and I have applied these tests on three occasions.

There is no record of any drainage in the district, but I hope to make a record of all known sewers and drains and also to record all new drains, etc.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all members of the Council for the assistance given to me since my appointment, and also for the careful consideration, and support given in connection with any suggestion which I have from time to time brought before the Council.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

L. A. GORNALL.

7. Housing.

With the advent of a new Surveyor, the Council decided to ask his opinion on the Model Building Bye-laws Series IVa. (Rural), which it had been decided to adopt. Mr. Gornall considered that this Rural Series did not go far enough and suggested that copies of the Urban Series be circulated to members of the Council; this is now being done and developments are hoped for in 1930. I agree with Mr. Gornall that Urban Series are preferable for the town, although last year I was glad to accept the Rural Series which the Council proposed to adopt, rather than nothing.

Little building has been going on in the district and the housing situation remains about the same.

HOUSING STATISTICS 1929.

Number of New Houses erected during the Year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	3
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(1) By the Local Authority 0	0
(2) By other bodies or persons 0	0

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	199
(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	81
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 3	3
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 24	24

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 73	73
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :

A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 2	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
(a) By owners 0	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations of owners of intention to close 3	3

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defaults to be remedied ...	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defaults were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a) By owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

C. Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	3
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

8. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply :

To ensure a better control of milk supplied to the town being carried out, the Sanitary Inspector is making twice yearly sedimentation tests for dirty milk at his routine inspections of dairies and cowsheds. The results of these tests are preserved and prove most interesting, not merely from the point of seeing which farm produces dirty and which clean milk, but of marking progress towards obtaining cleaner milk from those farms whose first samples are unsatisfactory.

In addition to this it is hoped next summer to make several tests for fat content (to show adulteration by addition of water).

A clean milk demonstration was given at the Red House Farm during the early summer and was fairly well attended by outside farmers, but not one farmer in the Council's district was present, to the disappointment of the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, who had arranged it.

Action taken with regard to milk:

Inspections of farms	25
,, dairies	25

Two specimens of milk were examined for tubercle bacilli, but found negative.

(b) Meat, &c. :

Action taken with regard to meat and other food :

Inspections of meat	12
,, slaughterhouses	12
,, shops	0
,, places where food is prepared...	0

(c) Adulteration :

Action taken in regard to milk, &c. 0

9. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Disease.

Infectious Disease Generally.

The past year has seen considerable epidemics of infectious disease, besides sporadic cases.

Among the notifiable infectious diseases there was one case of diphtheria in a boy home from school on holiday, and a few cases of mild scarlet fever, so mild indeed that some had only been home a day or two with slight throats and were only recognised in the peeling stage, no doctor having been called in earlier.

Among the non-notifiable diseases there was first of all the wave of comparatively slight influenza which swept over the British Isles and which affected nearly every house in Leiston ; this was followed by a severe epidemic of whooping-cough among children, with at least one death. Whooping-cough vaccine was used in the treatment of many cases, with success, alleviating the symptoms within a few hours in most cases, although the length of the illness was not always curtailed. The Council supplied vaccine for use in poor cases and eleven were thus treated with public vaccine with good results.

Following whooping-cough mumps broke out in a very small way and was kept under control very successfully until, after the summer holidays, it got into the Leiston Junior School. Here I found the orders I had been giving (for the isolation of contacts as well as the actual cases) were at variance with those issued by the School Attendance Officers, the instructions of the Ministry of Education. I appealed to the County Authorities, but, at the request of the County Medical Officer, agreed to let the matter be for a period of a fortnight to see how things went. I agreed only against my better sense to this course and the period of inaction was fatal. The mumps got such a hold of the school that I realised that further efforts to control were useless. New cases arose from half a dozen to four times that number in a week and nearly 30 per cent of the children were away for several weeks. To a lesser extent the epidemic spread to the Senior Schools, and not a few adults were victims ; then it spread to the surrounding parishes. Fortunately the disease was in a mild form and complications were few. I should estimate there were not less than 300 cases in Leiston. Considerable dissatisfaction was caused in the town and I do think that had the Education Authorities followed my advice for isolation of the contacts the epidemic would have been limited. Small children can be isolated much better in term time than during holidays.

To refer to the note I made in my previous report on the delay in receiving results of diphtheria swabs; the matter was fully investigated and as far as could be ascertained the delays were wholly postal, the records of the County Laboratory showing that all swabs were dealt with and reported on with normal celerity. From the point of view of the practitioner and suspect patient this was not wholly satisfactory, as if no wire had been received in 48 hours the doctor did not know whether to assume that the swab was negative or that it was still in the post, and to avoid this delay and uncertainty, in the future a post card will accompany each swab and be despatched by the Laboratory Authorities immediately on receipt so that the sender may know whether the swab has reached its destination.

An illustrated lecture on the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis was given during the year; it was most interesting and attracted a fair attendance.

There are no facilities in the district for cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons, but the Sanitary Inspector disinfects premises where there has been infectious disease.

The following number of vaccinations have been done in the district during the year :

(a) Primary Vaccinations	...	41
(b) Revaccination	...	24

10. Notifiable Disease during 1929.

A. Other than Tuberculosis.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Deaths.
Chicken Pox	7	0	0
Small Pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	11	0	0
Diphtheria	2*	1	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	0	0
Pneumonia	9	0	0
Erysipelas	5	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	0	0	0

* One of these cases was not bacteriologically confirmed.

B. Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—5			1					
5—10			1		5			1
10—15		1	1					
15—20					1			
20—25								
25—30					1			
30—40								
40—50								
50 upwards								
Totals	1	3	6	1			1	

11. Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

No action was taken relating to tuberculosis employees in the milk trade, no infected person being so employed locally.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1925, SECTION 62.

No action was taken under this section.

12. Factories, Workshops & Workplaces. Home Office Form 572

Owing to the fact that the late Sanitary Inspector left no register or record of inspections carried out, and that his successor has not been able to find time to deal with the matter during his brief period in office, I regret I am unable to give any accurate information under this section.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. G. GARNETT,

January, 1930.

Medical Officer of Health.



